

Back on the Air

The faculty and student body of M. E. Marcuse Hi wish to announce that just to spite Old Man Depression, they intend to have the busiest and most successful year ever known in its school history.

The faculty hasn't had time to worry about itself since school opened and the students have been so busy that they actually feel conceited about it already.

We, the editors of the Broadcaster wish to announce the names of those who have joined our broadcasting station for the coming year. They are as follows: Mr. A. J. Camden, principal, formerly of Amherst County who replaces Mr. Raymond Blackwell who has accepted a position on the Eastern Shore; Miss Margaret C. Morrison, is still with us as announcer of "English as it is spoken in America," she also is attempting to plant a few Latin words in non-receptive minds; Mr. S. R. Crockett, Jr., we are glad to say will again broadcast History (local and otherwise) and perhaps Math, if he can get the Sophs. to add 2 and 2.

In the grades we are chirping for joy because we have Miss Page back for the 6th and 7th grades; in the fifth grade we have a new-comer from Lynchburg College, to take the place of Miss Mildred Morgan, now teaching in Hanover County; this is Mr. Gordon Tanner. Miss Annie Perrow, with her beautiful flowers and plants is cheering up her 3rd and 4th grades, while Miss Lillian Baldock, of Boonsboro, replaces Miss Virginia Burks, our feature on the M. E. M. H. S. hour, broadcasting her piano numbers, but now broadcasting on "How to Cook in 5 Lessons" from Detroit. Listeners-in may now recognize her over the air as Mrs. Bob Pearman; and Miss Frances Turpin is back on the air with her Tiny Tots of the 1st grade. She says her "feature" is bigger and better than ever, in fact it already consists of forty-three members! And now you must tune in every week in the Bedford Democrat, and listen to our program which will cheer up you, the listeners and we, the broadcasters during the coming winter. Fan letters will be appreciated!

Now for some more broadcasting. Sammy, our Snooper announces that Turpin and Charlie Baker are at the College, Lottie and Doris Greg-

Second Grammar Grade, (Miss Baldock) Edna Long, Rachel Turner, Ann Waugh.

First Year High School—Edna Baker and Mary Rogers.

Third Year High—Florence Franklin and James St. John.

Fourth Year High—Mary Ellen Tanner, Lucille Mitchell, Spotswood Fos-

The Origin of Christmas

Christmas is the day celebrated in all Christian countries as the day of the birth of Christ, the "Savior of the World, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings."

This day is now set aside by special religious services, charitable deeds, the exchange of gifts and by merry-making and rejoicing.

We do not know the definite date of the time when the Christmas festival was first observed, but it is spoken of by Clement of Alexandria in the beginning of the third century.

It is probably that the real date of Christ's birth was in October, but in order to make the Christianized pagans forget the great pagan feast of Saturn, which occurred around December 25, the Christian fathers postponed the date of celebrating Christ's birth until December 25.

The use of holly, mistletoe and the giving of presents, have all descended from the days of paganism. Without the Christmas tree and Santa Claus, Christmas would mean very little to the little folk. The custom of sending greetings of "Christmas Cards" started about fifty years ago.

In recent years many cities have adopted the beautiful custom of celebrating the festival as community gatherings. Great Christmas trees with shining decorations are set up in communities, and on Christmas Eve the people gather around these trees and sing familiar hymns, which deal with the birth of Christ. The community Christmas tree is symbolic of that spirit of kindness which moves people to help their less fortunate brothers and sisters.

(Mary Ellen Tanner)

Play to be Given December 21st.

Members of the Literary League will present a play at the town hall, on Tuesday night at 8 o'clock, December 21st. The plot of the play, entitled "The Silver Lining," follows: Betty and Carlisle Hartly happily married, have lost their little daughter mysteriously. To keep up appearances of cheerfulness, Betty goes to extremes in her actions.

Rev. Hartley, Carlisle's father who is a stern minister of the gospel, comes to visit them. He has never seen Betty, and Carlisle is interested as to the impression his wife will make on his preacher father.

The minister arrives, tries to reform Sadie and Anne, Betty's modern friends and they, in turn, try to reform him. Rev. Hartley becomes young again and every one is made happy except for the shadow of the loss of Betty's child. Finally through the efforts of the priceless butler, Dawson, and the amusing Irish servant, Mary, the lost little girl is restored to her adoring parents. Humor runs throughout the play, as well as sadness and the players assure the audience of an entertaining evening.

The cast follows:

Carlisle Hartley—Spotswood Foster, Jr.

Betty Hartley—Lollie Horton.

Mary, the Irish maid—Florence Franklin.

Sadie Saunders, three times a bridesmaid, but never a bride—Thelma Arthur.

Anne Harcourt, three times a bride but never a bridesmaid—Irwin Foster.

Rev. Samuel Hartley, Carlisle's father—Addison Mattox.

Dawson, the perfect butler—Maurice Arthur.

Lovey, a little girl—Bobbie Mattox

"Santa Claus"

Every little boy and girl in America is looking forward to Christmas with great expectations of dear old Santa Claus bestowing gifts free-handed upon them.

The name "Santa Claus" was given to Saint Nicholas by the Dutch, shortening his name affectionately. His name in Latin is "Sancta Nicholaus."

Saint Nicholas was born in Patara, in Lycia and became bishop of Myra. He is supposed to have worked many miracles of healing, and some wonders to convert unbelievers. He suffered imprisonment for his belief and faith.

This great Saint died on December 6, about 326 A.D. This date was celebrated in Europe for a long period as one of the most famous saints' days, especially because Saint Nicholas was the father of travelers by land and sea, particularly the young and because of the fact that his feast day fell close to Christmas, he was associated with that day.

We, the students broadcasting from M. E. Marcuse High are wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a most Prosperous New Year. Hope that Good Saint Nicholas may bestow upon you the gifts your heart desires.

Mary E. Tanner

Editorial

"Lent—What Does It Mean?"

The season, forty days before Easter, dedicated by Christians to fasting and prayer in honor of Christ, who spent forty days in fasting and prayer in the desert before His terrible ordeal of trial, judgment and death on the Cross, has commended and is called Lent.

The word comes originally from the German word, *lenz*, and the Anglo-Saxon *lencten*, and means Spring. Naturally the period before Easter Sunday is generally Spring-like, so that the early doctors of the church called this fasting season the spring, or Lenten, season.

Irenanus, one of the Christian writers of the 4th century mentions that the custom of keeping a fast before Easter Sunday was quite old, even in his day.

Thus we see that the practice of "keeping Lent" which has fallen into neglect in the modern Christian churches is over a thousand years old and therefore one of the oldest customs of Christianity.

George Washington, the Agriculturist

This year, 1932, the memory of George Washington, the Father of Our Country, has been awakened anew in the heart of every American for we shall celebrate the two hundredth birthday of our beloved hero.

Washington, the first President of the United States, was also our first farmer, and was of a scientific mind. He wrote to many a friend that farming was the favorite of all his pursuits. He was by natural instinct a farmer and he found his greatest happiness in his marriage and the care and development of his home.

But Washington was not contented to be a country gentleman who farmed in the disastrous manner then in vogue in Virginia. He realized that extensive and unbroken tobacco planting was very ruinous to the soil. His earnest wish was to adopt a better course.

At Mount Vernon plantation he grew a fair amount of tobacco, which served as a medium of exchange. He raised wheat, corn, hay and turnips extensively, pursuing a careful system of crop rotation and fertilizing his fields liberally.

Mount Vernon was the first real experiment station on the North American continent. Washington made of his estate an agricultural laboratory, wherein he put to practical application the new theories of soil cultivation and stock breeding that were then being used successfully in England.

We did not, however, confine himself to the raising of crops. He was an industrious and enthusiastic stockman. When he came on the scene as a farmer, both the horses and cattle of Virginia were notoriously inferior to those of England. The hogs were allowed to run wild in the woods, the year round until the time to slaughter them arrived. The breed of sheep also was poor.

All of these Washington improved. He soon realized that it was necessary to feed his swine systematically and to put them into pens and give them grain before slaughtering them. He made many efforts to improve the breeds of his cattle and horses and Washington was the first American to raise mules.

He sought to improve and beautify the place he loved so well.

Thus we see that Washington, our first real farmer, did much to improve agricultural conditions in Colonial Virginia.

School News

A most impressive ceremony was held on the school grounds Monday afternoon, commemorating the Bicentennial Anniversary of the birth of George Washington. An elm tree contributed by the Big Island Garden Club formed the nucleus for the ceremony.

The following program was rendered:

Invocation—Rev. J. Mack Franklin. Song by members of the Primary Grades.

Poem, "Planting a Tree," by Lucy Tarcom, read by Spotswood Foster.

The very popular semi-classic song, "Trees," by Joyce Kilmer, was sung by the members of the Junior League.

Poem, "Twenty-second of February" by William Cullen Bryant, was read by Patsy Warren.

Poem, "Trees," by Lucy Tarcom, was read by Hallie Turpin.

Poem, "Trees," by Bliss Carman, was read by Florence Franklin.

Song, "America," by the school.

After the program, Spotswood Foster, Jr., president of the Junior League, poured in the first shovel full of dirt on the roots of the Washington Elm Tree, and then each member of the Garden Club put in another shovel full of dirt. The planting of this tree was made possible by the contribution of the tree by the Garden Club and the care of the tree will be in the hands of the Junior League.

The "Broadcaster," on behalf of the school, wishes to thank the Garden Club for their worthy contribution.

The Junior League held its regular meeting Thursday, the 18th.

It was decided to send a delegation to the district meeting which will be held at Gladys, Va., on April 16th. The secretary will give the report of the work done by the Junior League in lieu of the president, as the president, Spotswood Foster, Jr., has been elected to preside over the district meeting. After the business was disposed of the Freshman Class was represented on the program by the following participants:

Short Story—Elizabeth Burch.

Poem, "Barefoot Boy,"—Dan Mason.

Jokes—Gladys Goff.

Song, "America," sung by the Junior League.

Critics Report—Miss Morrison.

The meeting then adjourned to meet again March 17th, when the sophomores will present a program.

School News

Mary Ellen Tanner and Bobbie Mattox, a senior and a junior in high school received the unusual honors of having a poem by each in honor of George Washington, published in the American High School Journal. This magazine, edited for the purpose of encouraging the creative ability of high school students offered a nation wide invitation to enter articles or poems for its Bi-centennial number and we feel justly proud that two of the poems from the Junior and Senior English class were selected as representation in this nation-wide contest.

We congratulate you Bobbie and Mary Ellen!

The roll of honor for the fifth grade was omitted last week and we regret the omission. It follows: Second Honor—Viola Wilson, Dorothy Turpin, Elbert Tanner, Reuel Collins, Lois Tomlinson, Vivian Burch.

The 4-H Club held a program meeting Thursday, March 10. Mary Ellen Tanner and Annis Burton gave an original dialogue; musical selection, played on the banjo by Maurice Arthur; questions and riddles by Lorean Day; poem by Louise Warren, and selection of 4-H Club Goals by Bobbie Mattox.

Those who love school so well that a little thing like snow and ice and bitter cold did not prevent them from walking to school Monday morning, when the bus was delayed by fallen trees, etc., were Mr. Gordon Tanner, Mary Ellen Tanner, Elbert Tanner, Astor Tomlinson, William Turpin, Aubrey Tomlinson, Hallie, Elizabeth and Marvis Turpin and Miss Annie Perrow braved the roads in the bus from Seward and for the first time this year, declared they had enough room!

School News

The Junior League held its regular monthly meeting last Tuesday. Several committees were appointed to perform the duty of keeping the members informed as to the date of the meetings. A committee was also appointed to prepare a program for the following month. Another project was considered to work on, that of securing trees and shrubs to plant on the school grounds.

After the business was disposed of, the president, Spotswood Foster, gave an interesting talk on "The Principal of Radio."

The League then adjourned to meet again February 18th, when the Freshman class will put on a program.

Exams were over Friday and out of the maze of various papers a few (did I say a few?) "boners," were pulled which gave the well-informed teachers quite a laugh. The following are a few excerpts from the otherwise masterpieces:

"Luther was the founder of paternism."

"The government of Virginia is a model of perfection."

"The Cardinals were a group of college students."

"Michael Angelo was a nobleman and lawyer."

"Poe wrote The Fall of the House of Ushers."

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" was a novel by H. B. Stowe.

EDITORIAL

Was St. Patrick an Irishman?

St. Patrick, the missionary to Ireland around the fourth century, was not Irish, or Celtic, by birth. He was born either in Scotland or Wales and was the son of a noble Briton family.

It is said that he was carried to Ireland as a slave of one of the powerful Irish kings who had raided Scotland.

Patrick was taken back to Ireland and there learned to love the people and assumed their characteristics.

At this time Ireland and its inhabitants were pagans to a large extent; but Patrick's master was a Christian, and Patrick while tending his cattle devoted his time to prayer and meditation. After six years of slavery he escaped and fled for safety to a monastery where he decided to become a missionary in order to preach the Gospel of Christ to the Irish people whom he had learned to love so well.

Tradition tells us that he went to France, and then to Rome where his education was completed. Pope Celestine then commissioned him to go back to Ireland.

Patrick returned to Ireland and preached Christianity with such a zeal and with such courage that he soon converted thousands to Christianity.

The reason the Irish today honor St. Patrick is because he gave to them Christianity and the reason they use the shamrock, or three leaf clover is because Patrick used it to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost.

Thus all of America, England and Ireland on March 17th give honor to the man who brought them to the knowledge of the true God and drove out the snakes of paganism from the British Islands.

MARY ELLEN TANNER,
(Associate Editor.)

School News

Little Mattie Peters, pupil in the fourth grade who underwent an operation for appendicitis, is improving.

The Boys Athletic Association met last week for the purpose of organizing a track team. Spotswood Foster was elected manager and Bill Tanner, assistant manager. The Tract Meet will be held in Big Island on April 29.

The 4-H club held its regular meeting, Thursday. Miss Lela Calfee, county demonstration agent, gave a demonstration in bread making.

The girls of M. E. H. S. met Wednesday for the election of officers of the Track Team. Bobbie Mattox was elected manager, Mary Tanner, secretary.

Miss Turpin and Miss Baldock held Easter egg hunt for the pupils in the first, second and third grades Friday and Monday afternoons.

School News—As It Really Is

Curious facts as I see them:

Mr. Camden's favorite study is sociology—and favorite color, "Brown."

Dan Burks has fallen in love. But who wouldn't fall for a blonde?

I wish Addison Mattox would make up his mind which girl he prefers.

Astor Tomlinson advocates a career for Mildred Staton in "Flo" Ziegfeld's "Follies." Well Astor ought to know.—Catch on?

Annis Burton's "eternal love triangle"—James Turner, Maurice Arthur and Jordan Brown. At the present, James Turner is the "right angle."

Ray! Ray! Ray! What's the last name Lorene?

Alese Goff is spending her nights dreaming of "Knights." Osson, you "dream man!"

A new fad! Sitting on a fence on moonlight nights. Ellis Putney and Helen Brown are the exponents.

There's a reason for Woodrow Spence visiting school during the civics class. And boy! Is "Little Eva" a good reason!

Headlines! Ashby Brown surrounded—escape impossible! And Audrey Tomlinson, Lillian Turpin, Dorothy Martin and Lula Milam are filling up the surrounding space.

Member the good "ole days," Irwin, when a certain Francis Whitehouse was at the head of your mailing list? Now Addison, will you be good!

I don't know how "Truette" may be, but "Becky" Tanner certainly receives a lot of mail.

Spotswood Foster must be a gentleman because he prefers blondes. Ask Julia Thompson.

Things We Pray For

That Miss Morrison will stop telling us how she learned to milk a cow.

That Mr. Camden will continue his subscription to the "Lynchburg News," so we can enjoy study period.

That John Putney will do his "necking" in private from now on.

That Patsy Warren would reduce our rates for overdue library books, and also take the cotton out of the key hole.

(By) "Newsy Bits"

(The Spy Columnist)

P. S.—Miss Baldock is ill. How's Mr. Crockett?